SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR FACILITATING USER ACCESS TO CONTENT STORED ON PRIVATE NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods that facilitate user access to various types of content stored within one or more devices on a private network, both from other devices on the private network and from devices external to the

5   private network, are provided. Content stored within each network device is published to the private network (*e.g.*, to other devices on the private network), either periodically or continuously, via a respective contributor module associated with each network device.

10   Meta information about content stored within each network device (and/or content) is aggregated, either periodically or continuously, via an aggregator module in communication with each contributor module. The content stored within the network devices (or content centrally

15   stored) is then categorized, either automatically or manually by a user, into one or more content categories via a categorizer module in communication with the aggregator module. A user can formulate and send queries for content to the aggregator module via a user

20   interface, such as an audio player, video player, image viewer, etc. Query results are returned to the requesting user interface from the aggregator module and displayed. Content selected from the displayed query results by a user is then retrieved from wherever it is stored on the

25   private network.